

NAME Cunningham (William; not used) Phelps
(last) (first) (middle)

Biographical Material

Birthplace Humboldt, Kansas Date August 24, 1903

Education Lawrence, Kansas High School, 1921. University of Kansas, Lawrence,
B S in Architecture, 1926. Guptill's Sketch Atelier, New York, 1928 .

Special Comments Profession, Architect. Carr and Cunningham, Architects,
1421 Schofield Building, Cleveland 15, Ohio. Wife is Mary Phillips Cunningham,
active with woodcuts, color prints and ceramics and frequent May Show exhibior

Awards and Honors (including others than those received in Cleveland)

May Show prizes, Relief cuts: 1933, Mention; 1934, First; 1937, First;
1941, Third; 1948, Mention. Tri State Exhibition, Indianapolis, 1944,
Wood Engraving, Third Prize

Affiliations (artists' societies, etc.)

Cleveland Print Makers (Defunct) American Institute of Architects,
Cleveland Museum of Art

Where Represented in Permanent Collections (Among private collections include only
large and important)

Cleveland Museum, Cleveland Public Library, Library of Congress,

Swedish National Museum, John Herron Art Gallery, Alfred Fowler (Woodcut Society)

Exhibitions (list by years)

Large Annual Shows May Show, 1930, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 39, 41, 48. Penn. Academy, Water-
Color and Print Annual, 1931, 32, 33, 34, 37. American Block Prints, Wichita, 1933, 34
Society of American Etchers, 1933. Mid*Western, Kansas City, 1932, 35

One Man

Special (or Foreign) Nat. Exhibition Contemporary American Prints, to Sweden 1937-38
American Art Today, N.Y. World's Fair, 1939

Bibliography

Who's Who in American Art

NAME.. Cunningham..... (last)..... (Wellman)..... (first)..... Phelps..... (middle)

Biographical Material

Birthplace... Humboldt, Kansas..... Date... August 24, 1903
Education... Common School, Humboldt, Kansas, High School, Lawrence, Kan.
U. of Kansas, Lawrence, Ka. (B.S. in Architecture 1926) Juppills Sketch
Atelier, N.Y. (1928-29)

Special Comments... Three months trip to Europe; Study of print processes with
Kalman Kerkirij, Cleveland. Architect by Profession - Charles Bacon Rowley Asso-
ciates, Architects, (Cleve.) Interests: Block Prints, Etching Processes,
Water colors Pencil Renderings

Awards and Honors (including others than those received in Cleveland)

..... Cleveland Museum May Show - H.M. - 1933 (block Prints)
..... 1934 - 1st Prize; 1932 - 1st prize; 1941 - 3rd prize " " S.
..... Print Makers Soc. of California - "SD Color Print of the Yr." - Exhibition
Affiliations (artists' societies, etc.)

..... Cleveland Print Makers (defunct). Color Block Print Makers of Amer.
..... Cleveland Museum, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Tau, Scarab

Where Represented in Permanent Collections (Among private collections include only large and important)

..... Cleveland Museum of Art, Library of Congress, Swedish Museum
Cleveland Public Library, Alfred Fowler, Kansas City

Exhibitions (list by years)

Large Annual Shows... Cleveland Museum May Show - 1930-31-32-33-34-37-39-41
..... Winter Water Color Show - 1930-31; 31-32; 32-33.
..... Travelling Show - 1939-40
..... Academy Annual Winter Show - 1931, 32, 33, 34, 37. Dayton Art
Institute - 1933-34-38; Soc. of American Etchers - 1933 - etc. see attached
sheet

One Man... See attached sheet
Special (or Foreign)..... Sheet

Bibliography

1944-45

NAME: Cunningham (William) Phelps
Last (No longer used) First Middle

Birthplace: Humboldt, Kansas. Date: August 24, 1903

Parents: A. W. & Mary I. Cunningham Address: Lawrence, Kansas

Education: Common School, Humboldt, Kansas
High School, Lawrence, Kansas
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
B S in Architecture, 1926
Guptill's Sketch Atelier, New York, 1928-29
Three months trip to Europe, 1929
Study of print processes with Kalman Kubinyi, Cleveland

Special Comments:

Architect by Profession, Registered, State of Ohio #305
Charles Bacon Rowley and Associates, Architects,
Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio
Art Interests: Block Prints, Etching Processes, Water
Colors, Pencil renderings.
Wife: Mary Phillips Cunningham, Artist, Print Maker and
'Prodger on-er'; A B in Design, Univ. of Kansas '27
One Child--Son--William P. Cunningham (Also inclined)

Awards and Honors:

Cleveland Museum, May Show
1933 -- Honorable Mention -- Block Print
1934 -- First Prize Block Print
1937 -- First Prize Block Print
1941 -- Third Prize Block Print

Print Makers Society of California "Fifty Color Prints of the Year"
Exhibition 1933

Affiliations:

Cleveland Print Makers (Defunct)
Color Block Print Makers of America
Cleveland Museum
Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Tau, Scarab (Honorary Engineering and
Architectural Fraternities)

Where Represented in permanent collections:

Cleveland Museum of Art Purchase
Library of Congress Purchase
Swedish National Museum, Stockholm Purchase
Cleveland Public Library Purchase
Alfred Fowler, Kansas City. (Woodcut Society) Bribe

Exhibitions; Large Annual Shows:

Cleveland Museum -- May Show -- 1930,31,32,33,34,37,39,41
Winter Water Color Show -- 1930-31, 31-32, 32-33
Travelling Show -- 1939-40

Penn. Academy, Annual Water
Color and Print Show -- 1931,32,33,34,37

Dayton Art Institute; Ohio Print Makers -- 1933,34,38 and others

Society of American Etchers, N. Y. -- 1933

American Block Prints, Wichita, Kansas -- 1933,34

Mid-Western, Kansas City -- 1932,35 and others

The Print Club, Philadelphia -- 1934 and other years

Exhibitions; Special and Foreign:

Whitney Museum, "Paintings and Prints by Cleveland Artists" 1937

Society of American Etchers, National Exhibition of Lithographs,
Woodcuts, and Block Prints -- 1937

National Exhibition of Contemporary American Prints, 1937-38
selected from the above and sent as a travelling show
to Sweden in exchange for a Swedish Show. My entry
purchased by Swedish National Museum

Fifty Color Prints of the Year, 1933; Print Makers Society of Cal.

Second Annual Exhibition (Travelling) The Woodcut Society, 1934

NOTE: In addition to the above my prints were included in many of the travelling exhibitions of the Cleveland Print Makers, the American Federation of Arts and the Cleveland Museum. My prints were included in several editions of the "Print a Month" by the Cleveland Print Makers. Also one print was included in the New York World's Fair Show "American Art Today" and because of that I sold three different prints to the Library of Congress.

Bibliography(?):

Very little has been written about my work. The Museum Bulletin carried a nice blurb once and outs have been used in local papers. The Dayton Daily News ran a cut of my Sorghum Mill, Tennessee that was a better reproduction than I can get from the block most of the time. Norman Kent was supposed to be publishing a book of linoleum cuts using one of mine, in 1939, but I havenot seen it.

I did one color block print using eight blocks, and on the strength of that was asked to be a charter member of the Color Block Print Makers of America. Incidentally I made that print while stranded on a farm in Kansas during the Depression

and the whole thing was registered and printed on a cider press with home made wood beds. I now have and use a reconstructed cider press with steel plates formall my printing. The Woodcut Society Bulletin which accompanied their exhibition showing my color print compared it to paintings by Grant Wood./ Humph?

Print making is certainly a fine hobby, but it can hardly be more than that to most artists. I doubt that there are five artists in the country at this time that are making a decent living exclusively from print making, and probably there are none. Perhaps then, we should push ti as a hobby, soft pedal the fine arts end, and try to get volumes of people interested in making prints as a hobby. Many of them might want to buy those made by artists, or indeed, many might develope into better artists than we have now. I wonder if it could be started in the hobby magazines.

All this merely means that I consider my print making as a swell hobby, and not to be taken too seriously as a Fine Art.

The Cleveland Museum has most of the prints that I have made, purchased through the Print Club. In all the years I have submitted prints there was only one that was not accepted, and I should have known better that send that one in. I have sent prints and water colors to dozens of exhibitions in the last ten years and at only one was something not accepted; and that was the Chicago Art Institute when they turned down my first prize prints from the May Show. Ha.

Phelps Cunningham

866 Helmsdale Rd.

September 12, 1941



May Show - Biographies - Cunningham, Phelps

Phelps Cunningham

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MUSEUM OF ART

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Strathmore

Phs Cunningham

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